

FERN RIDGE LAKE MARSH RESTORATION, OREGON
Fact Sheet

AUTHORITY: Construction General, Continuing Authorities Program, Section 1135
SPONSOR: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
STUDY PHASE: Feasibility

LOCATION: The proposed project is approximately 6 miles west of the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area, at Fern Ridge Lake.

PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES: Reed canarygrass has caused a monoculture to develop in the emergent marsh habitat fringing much of the lake. This monoculture significantly reduces the wildlife production and use potential of these lands.

RECOMMENDED PLAN: The proposed study would restore approximately 443 acres of marsh habitat at Fern Ridge Lake Project. The proposed action is to control reed canarygrass, an exotic plant, and thereby provide for a more diverse and productive vegetation and wildlife community. Control would be attained by construction of levees around the management areas and significantly altering the water regime on the project area. The intent will be to maintain higher water levels behind the levees from mid-fall through spring. Water level management, in concert with prescribed burns or other treatments, are intended to substantially eradicate reed canarygrass from the project area and preclude its reestablishment. Native aquatic and emergent marsh plants are expected to colonize the project lands rapidly and thereby increase site productivity for wildlife.

STATUS: The potential sponsor, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is being forwarded a letter requesting a commitment to sponsor the project and a demonstration of financial capability. Information on cash contribution required, potential in-kind service credit, and project options to reduce cost are included in the letter. The project modification report is scheduled for completion in April 1997. The project has been linked to the Amazon Wetlands Restoration Section 1135 Project in an effort to reduce costs for both Section 1135 projects. Excess borrow material from Amazon Wetlands Restoration would be used to construct levees on the Fern Ridge Marsh Restoration Project. Failure of ODFW to sponsor the project will potentially adversely effect the Amazon Wetlands Restoration Section 1135 Project.

SCHEDULE:

Complete Project Modification Report	April 30, 1998
Begin Plans and Specifications	April 30, 1998
Complete Plans and Specifications	May 15, 1999
Begin construction	May 15, 1999
Complete construction	December 1, 1999

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT(S): The study is within Oregon's 4th Congressional District represented by Peter DeFazio.